

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 31, 2007, claims 24-30 were rejected under 103(e) over 2003/0169618. Claims 19-54 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over 10/654586. Claims 2-3 and 11-18 were allowed.

Interview

The Examiner is thanked for a telephone interview on November 26, 2007 in which the Office Action was discussed. The Examiner indicated that if 10/654586 were abandoned, the double patenting rejection would be withdrawn and the claims that were rejected only for double patenting would be allowable.

103(e) rejection

In the Office Action mailed May 31, 2007, claims 24-30 were rejected under 103(e) over 2003/0169618. Without conceding to the rejection, to advance prosecution, claims 24-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. This amendment makes the rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Double patenting rejection

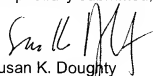
In the Office Action mailed May 31, 2007, claims 19-54 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over 10/654586. Without conceding to the rejection, 10/654586 has been expressly abandoned. This action obviates the double patenting rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. In accordance with the Interview with the Examiner discussed above, it is believed claims 19-23 and 31-54 should now be allowable, along with claims 2-3 and 11-18 which were previously indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and arguments, it is believed the claims are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. If there are any issues remaining to passage of the case to issuance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

This response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time (three months) and authorization to charge the Deposit Account 07-1969 in the amount of \$525.00 for a small entity. If this amount is incorrect, however, please credit any overpayment or deduct the appropriate fee, including the fee for any extensions of time required, from Deposit Account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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